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10 March 1983

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Cuban Presence In Nicaragua

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We estimate that there are some 7-8,000 Cubans currently in Nicaragua, of which 1,500-2,000 are military and security personnel. This estimate is our best judgment based on a variety of sources

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- The Cubans and Nicaraguans themselves have confirmed that 2,000 teachers have recently returned to Nicaragua for the start of the school year.
- Earlier, the Cubans publicly announced that 2,000 construction personnel were sent to help repair damages from the May 1982 floods. These projects continue, and we believe that these workers are also employed building Nicaraguan military barracks and airfields.
- The Nicaraguans have also publicized the presence of 600 Cuban rural health workers, as well as a variety of other technicians.

A breakdown of our estimate is as follows:

Military advisors	1,500-2,000
Teachers	2,000
Construction workers	2,000
Health workers and other advisors	<u>1,500-2,000</u>
TOTAL	7,000-8,000

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